



CHELMSFORD  
CATHEDRAL

## Choral Scholarships 2023-2024



## Choral Scholarships at Chelmsford Cathedral

The Chapter of Chelmsford Cathedral wishes to appoint gap year or graduate choral scholars for the academic year 2023-2024 to join an exciting and dynamic musical programme. The Cathedral Church of St Mary, St Peter, & St Cedd is at the centre of a large diocese with a wide variety of worshipping traditions. The Cathedral's own musical tradition is centred on the provision of music for Evensong on five days of the week and a Sunday morning Eucharist that is evolving in response to current patterns of worship. The corporate celebration of Morning and Evening Prayer is a key priority for the clergy team, and the sung offices are regarded as an important part of the Cathedral's mission and offering of worship, both on a daily basis and also as the foundation of larger-scale services for the city and county. The members of the music department staff and singers are valued and visible members of the Cathedral community and safeguarding is a key factor in our daily operation.

The music programme at Chelmsford Cathedral is busy and varied, encompassing regular choral services in the Cathedral with frequent visits to venues around the region and abroad. In recent years the Cathedral Choir has performed on BBC 1 and on a number of occasions on BBC Radio 3 and has sung for Her Late Majesty the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. Concert performances have included collaborations with other groups in diverse and exciting programmes.

The regular work of the choir involves singing at up to five choral services each week as well as their associated rehearsals. A choral scholar will be expected to be a good sight-reader, as the repertoire of the choir is wide and varied and rehearsal time is somewhat limited; previous experience of the Anglican choral repertoire is valuable but not essential. In recent years the scholars have sung regularly at locations around the city and county performing close harmony arrangements, selections from the Barbershop repertoire and other styles of music - enthusiasm and entrepreneurial flair are useful attributes.

The scholarships run from the beginning of September until the end of July, including Christmas and Easter; accommodation is provided in nearby houses shared with other cathedral scholars. The scholarships are currently worth £8,100 pa, from which rent and payment for some domestic bills is deducted monthly. Singing lessons are provided by the resident vocal coach Ross Sharkey, who also works with the boy choristers, and there are frequent opportunities for solo and ensemble performances in a variety of contexts and repertoires. There are a number of opportunities locally for work to supplement the scholarship and it is expected that the choral scholars will play a full role in the life of the department and wider cathedral community. Options for paid and voluntary work may be discussed with suitable candidates.

**The Cathedral Choir** provides the music at the majority of sung Cathedral services. Boys and girls are recruited from a variety of local schools and the back row comprises lay clerks, choral scholars (and deputies) and a number of volunteer singing men. The girls and boys sing on different days of the week, and ATB services are also a frequent part of the termly timetable.

The adults of the choir enjoy a friendly and professional working atmosphere and the opportunity to sing with more experienced singers can prove very useful to someone in their first choral position; junior choral scholars, often former choristers, take a full part in the choir timetable while attending school and look to the older choral scholars for an example of good vocal practice and role models that may have a positive impact on their future musical direction.

Choral scholars receive an induction on arrival, including safeguarding training, and a confidential declaration form will be issued on appointment. If appropriate, choral scholars may take on supervisory or teaching roles with the choristers, for which a DBS check is undertaken by the Cathedral.

### The Music Staff

Organist and Master of the Choristers	James Davy
Sub-Organist	<i>recruitment process ongoing</i>
Graham Rogers Organ Scholar	Matthew Kelley
Senior Choir Chaperone	Rachael Reid
Singing Teachers	Samantha Hay & Ross Sharkey

A typical week's musical commitments are:

Thursday	4.15 - 6.00	Rehearsal & Evensong (voices alternating on a weekly basis)
Friday	4.15 - 6.00 6.00 - 7.00 7.00 - 7.20	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) Lower voices rehearsal <i>Compline (during Lent)</i>
Saturday	4.30 - 6.00	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) (see below)
Sunday	10.30 - 12.30 2.45 - 4.30	Rehearsal & Eucharist (Full) Rehearsal & Evensong (Full)

Monday to Wednesday is normally free from choir duties, although from time to time services and other events take place, when the choral scholars will be expected to attend. The choir is normally free from duties on at least two Saturdays per month. Seasonal changes to this pattern are notified a half-term in advance.

**Applications** should be supported by the names of two referees, including

- Your current singing teacher
- Someone who has known you in a professional capacity for at least two years

Please send a letter of application and CV (including your e-mail address) by email to: [music@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](mailto:music@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk) or by post to: *The Organist & Master of the Choristers, Cathedral Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1TY.*

Auditions are held by arrangement.

To discuss informally any aspect of the scholarship, please contact James Davy by email at [james.davy@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](mailto:james.davy@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk).

chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk